

[Polish of Manchester]

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COMMENTS

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LIVING LORE

POLISH

Father Bronislaw Krupski, pastor Holy Trinity Church (National Catholic)

Lives directly back of church-door marked office.

Classes held in parish house.

Children twice a week.

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Women every third Sunday at 3, give plays etc.

English for men & women (citizen papers) 7 P.M. Wednesday. Mr. Waters teacher supplied by WPA

The Polish people, the way they are because of lack of leaders, they are what they were taught to be. No one told the Poles, 30 years ago, what they should do- introduced to saloon and that was all. Krupski has urged citizenship- in 1935 told them that they would be deported if did not get papers. Poles go to night school (public), go to parish school, until get papers (citizen) then quit. Not business men, romantics. Come from agricultural sections- worked for overlords, not own land. Steamship cos. went around in 1890 and on, getting people to come to U.S. Came for work, saved money to go back, many went back only to return. Very little money sent home. In Manchester work in mill and shoe factories. Few businesses of their own. (41 on relief in 1937, 1 in state hospital, 14 in reform school) Reason not on relief Krupski believes is because they manage to get small jobs & have standard of living, family and friends also help)

Polish clannish, jealous, hot-tempered. Hold on to traditions. Conservative in religion, more [progressive?] in civic affairs. Father Krupski says "the place for tradition is in a frame & hung on the wall" also says "the Poles have contributed nothing to America, only take and take--America gave them their opportunity, they gave nothing to America." Later said they contributed "hard work, enduring hard work."

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FATHER KRUPSKI

Poles have traditional culture and low civilization. Younger generation talented. Many high school pupils talented, but no money to develop talents. (He sighed when he said this) Their attitude, money "make a lot of money in short time" so go into business offices. Young fellow talented editor of Polish paper, Stanley Szopa, named several promising

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young fellows poets. engineers writers all out west. (Krupski contributes to this paper not so much religious as much as social subjects)

F.Krupski thinks Upton Sinclair's THE JUNGL JUNGLe a true picture of the Poles in Chicago. When he went to Chicago after leaving Prussian Poland, was told "find the saloon & there is the Church, find the church & there is the saloon. He kept repeating that the condition of the Poles not their fault, they know no better. They came here wanted to adapt themselves (are adaptable) so followed the man who led them to the saloon. "It is not the hand that is at fault but the one who moves the hand."

Old folks used to hard life, have endurance. Young people no endurance. Independant, if can get a job, any job, willdo that rather than accept help from anyone.

When Poles came here were insulted, exploited & demoralized by the Roman Catholic Church.

Must get Poles "low level Civilization" point of view. From high level, drunkenparties in a church just isn't done. But from "low level cicilization ---?

"No literary work ever done along this line, a fine thing."

"Any idea written or spoken must have political or economic value to appeal to themasses."

The Poles are a clean race, go to the doctor and go to the dentist. Eat strange food, lots of cabbage and potatoes.

Very small settlements in N.H., Claremonts Franklin, Manchester. Mostly out West.

Project 1801 INTERVIEW Polish Living Lore

Mr. Lorrain Ryder, teacher of Art in Manchester High School(in class)

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Class was designing headings for features in school magazineAUREOLE

"L should say the Polish as a group were most desirable. Thorough, conscientious hard workers, highly talented. More markedly talented than other races. The family, the older people, have their eye on the immediate income. They say 'You get a job, you make money, you bring money home.' So being without funds, they are forced to take positions in offices, store or any thing they can get. Consequently the majority stay there.

He cited several instances of girls who had worked and saved & went to Boston Art of the Manchester Institute of Arts and Science. Some have had to content themselves with night classes at the Institute.

When asked if Polish had a bent towards art rather than say science or business, he said "No, it was [?] individual [?] leanings. But when they followed art leanings, they excelled others."

This man weighed every word he said. It was a task to get him to say this much!

Project 1801 INTERVIEW Polish Living Lore

Miss McGinnis, teacher of domestic economics. Practical Arts High School

Girls learn to cook simple meals, set table & decorate table, serve meals, budget & plan meals.

The Polish girls seem to want to be Americans, do everything Americans do. Good workers and thorough. She thinks they prefer the clothing course as they have a dress [?] or something to show for it they get something concrete, something they have no money to buy. Whereas with the food they can get that at home. This d.e. course teaches them co-operation & co-ordination, all food for course must be finished simultaneously. Miss

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McGinnis feels that course "raises their standard of living. No way of telling how much affected at home." She thinks they excel in ART. Polish girl painted drop in Auditorium.

The girls were cooking breakfast while I was there, cereal and French toast. They were awkward but seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Mr. Waters, teacher of English to Poles at Holy Trinity Parish.

Mostly women(14, men 2) friendly a little shy. Asked if I might visit their homes, those speaking English said "Yes" with out hesitation. Set definite date for this. Those not speaking English said "No", as I would not understand what they said.

Class.

The words taught seemed unnecessarily difficult. Tried hard, seemed proud of "going to school." When asked why they hadn't long ago, Katherine answered "I work in mill, have lots of children, keep house, no time go to school." When asked why husband did not study for citizen papers, just shrugged.

Most of the Class have been here 20-32 years.

Tried to start a discussion on food but they understood so little English it was not successful. One woman when asked i, "Do you make poppy-seed cake?" "No, we buy cake, at Polish bakery." (Three of them in Manchester.)

Sally Jamro Byke, Mrs. 300 Lowell St., She lives with her husband's [p?] parents. Husband is in the U.S.Navy. He is a Pole,both his parents and hers were born in Poland. The older BYKs are very progressive & aggressive politically but to the traditional religious customs and old world food.

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Sally's own mother in a hospital with typhoid for 8 months. Knew no English when she went & came bck speaking it. Would act as interpreter for her neighbors and friends until some of the Polish women twitted her by saying, "Mrs. America, with the Polish nose."

When asked if old political holidays were observed now said, Only in the church." She is a Roman Catholic. Father Buchala the priest.

She will ask in-laws for information for me. I met her quite causually through someone living where I live, we talked about 20 minutes.

KORONA, Katherine, Mrs. 32 Russel St. Member of English class, working for second citizen papers. Holy Trinity Church.

Was dry-mopping the hall when I arrived. Lives on top floor apartment. Rooms very clean (she expected me)Two bed-rooms, a dining-room & kitchen. Came here in 1916. Brother was in Manchester. She said to mother(Poland), "I'm going to America" mother said"Find the money" She went to work in Germany. Worked in garden with beets & cabbages. Carried stones to road for paving surface. Then pitched [?] sheaves of wheat, which are laid in tiers. It hurt her arms back & chest , she was only 15 years old. "I lay in bed a week. The man said 'Too young, too hard work. Come back next year 'Did you go back? No, I am in Manchester.

Landed in Liverpool & stayed there 4 days. Ticket covers that stop-over. Goes out & looks around but is lonesome. "I came alone, but lots of people. Russians, Germans, Poles,Jews. Jews cry all the time 'I-aye, I-aye' make me no want to eat. Cook-man say EAT but I no-want to eat,me lonesome. Lands in Boston & takes train to Manchester

She works in Amoskeag making back-cloth(?). Threads thick, woof thin, all time tear. Me, my eyes, no good, no good. Me,in middle [?],no goodsun, light way above head. Get glasses. Moved to window & makes cards.

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Marries within two years & continues to work. Has 2 daughters i married,i working, i boy Henry in High School (classical) Husband "no give her money. All time say to men at T.T.K.--"My woman, don't know what8s matter with her. Has roof over head & food, but want money, money all the time." He tell me "Get job, work, children not little, no need money." So she now works for women,earns \$5 a week. "Geeve, geeve, to church, to organ Izations 1,2,3, organIzations."

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"My man , he drinks too much. All [?] time drunk. Me pray, me talk, [?] no good. Every morning T.T.K. one beer, one whiskey. Saturday & Sunday, drink all time. Come home, like this (staggers across the room) Husband now works in Nashua mill,gets transportation every day, comes home every night. Asked, "Will you move to Nashu, would you like to move there?" "No,no move. We,we know everybody, everybody here in Manchester."

"Do you cook Polish food?" "No, we like every thing different, everything American" What no golumpsi? No, husband he say "no cabbage" He say ,"cabbage, cabbage alltime cabbage in Poland ;mot here." Sometimes me buy cabbage in can. Not ver' good; but cabbage in can"(sour-kraut)

Showed me Polish-American Citizen costume she wore in Armistice Day parade, badges --reverse side in black ,used whwen someoneis dead. Marye Club. Pay .25 a month to one club & .20 a month to another club. When die get \$100. & FLOWERS. When sick in hospital,come see you. Also showed me husband's Polish outfit.

Showed me crocheted work. (rather coarse & crude) Her eyes are not good for other work now. She has a round box in which she keeps her money. When lid is rremoved, a concealed music box plays a tune. "So, no one stalmy money." All furnishings, very good [?] excellant taste as she says "plain,ver' plain." But many ornate furnishings, cushions, covers, dishes boxes, pictures the inevitable [?] crucifix.

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The rooms were nicely warm & we got on the subject of heat, Asked her how they heated their houses in Poland and she described the making of a stove. Several men make it & it takes two weeks & lasts two years or more. All this was described with great gusto. "Men, take ground, big piece. Go like this (treads with feet) make dough, twist like bread.

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Lay one piece down & another piece down & another piece. Soon have stove. Men take wood (lumber) plenty wood, build big hood build far (deep) Soon all finished. Sometime maybe break. Woman take ground, make dough (motions with vigorous gestures- filling cracks & smoothing over. Bake bread, bake cake, bake -----all in stove. Burn wood, no coal"" Her home a cottage rough, thatched roof.

Shall we go to Mrs. [?]? "Now you wait, I dress up" She came back in a few minutes rouged and powdered but no change in dress.

Saw Polish paper there on table. Published in Chicago, an organ of an insurance company.

She or they own land on Pine Island (Manchester). Costs too much to garden this past summer, more or less ruined by Sept. hurricane.

When speaking of the Jews on boat coming across she said "Jews no good, no work all time make business. Come say, sell me this sell me that. No work, all time make business. Buy chickens, buy eggs, buy ducks, pay leetle bit, sell big, great big. No work, all time make, business, no good." When asked if she thought they ought to be killed the way they are she said "no, no but no good, no work."

[??], neighbor of Katherine Karona. Speaks no English, understands some. Member of the class in English I visited. Very shy. Lives in own home. A large, well repaired & painted house. Inside spotless. Came to U.S. when 17 & married within 2 years. Worked at Amoskeag. Husband speaks English & German. Worked in Germany and saved money

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for transportation. Grounds of home well planned and cared for, shrubs are wrapped in burlap etc. Gardens for another man. He was repairing the sill of the back door. He came here in 1930. Landed in N.Y. took small boat to Boston & train here. No work in the mill. Could not find out what he did do, except gardening. He kept gesturing to himself, his wife and the room and saying, "Now clean, didn't use to be." Everytime there was a pause he would repeat the statement with great pride. He has his citizen papers. The woman does beautiful crocheting. Made a lace tablecloth that is a thing of beauty, fine enough for a wedding veil. Thread cost \$4. She is studying for her first papers.